CLAIMS:

1. A method for routing objects over a distributed computer network, said method comprising the steps of:

designating an object which comprises a self-contained module of data and associated processing information; and

routing said object over said distributed computer network utilizing an object router, which can parse said object and apply said associated processing information contained within said object, thereby permitting said object router to become self-programmed for varying data formats.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said object router comprises an object-oriented router.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

permitting said object router to construct said object by dynamically downloading said associated processing information corresponding to data received from an external data source.

4. The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of:

constructing said object utilizing an end device by packaging said data and said associated processing information; and

transmitting said object to said object router.

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of:

routing said data and said associated processing information utilizing an object router, such that said data and said associated processing information may be utilized by a subsequent object router to continue routing said data further through said distributed computer network.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein said subsequent object router comprises a next-hop object router.

7. The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of:

downloading other associated processing information utilizing a received object; and

thereafter constructing a new object.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said object router can utilize said data or said associated processing information embedded in said object to download said other set of associated processing information.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said object router can utilize said data or said associated processing information embedded in said object to download said other set of associated processing information to augment current associated processing information.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein said object router can utilize said data or said associated processing information embedded in said object to download said other set of associated processing information to replace said current associated processing information.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein said associated processing information comprises at least one software method.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein said at least one software method is present within said object.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein said at least one software method is associated with said object.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein said object router can route proprietary data.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein said object router can route standard data.

16. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

permitting said object router to construct said object by dynamically downloading said associated processing information corresponding to data received from an external data source;

constructing said object utilizing an end device by packaging said data and said associated processing information;

transmitting said object to said object router;

routing said data and said associated processing information utilizing an object router, such that said data and said associated processing information may be utilized by a subsequent object router to continue routing said data further through said distributed computer network, wherein said subsequent object router comprises a next-hop object router;

downloading other associated processing information utilizing a received object; and

thereafter constructing a new object.

17. A system for routing objects over a distributed computer network, said system comprising:

module for designating an object which comprises a self-contained module of data and associated processing information; and

module for routing said object over said distributed computer network utilizing an object router, which can parse said object and apply said associated processing information contained within said object, thereby permitting said object router to become self-programmed for varying data formats.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein said object router comprises an object-oriented router.

19. The system of claim 18 wherein said object router is permitted to construct said object by dynamically downloading said associated processing information corresponding to data received from an external data source.

20. The system of claim 19 further comprising:

module for constructing said object utilizing an end device by packaging said data and said associated processing information; and

module for transmitting said object to said object router.

21. The system of claim 20 further comprising:

module for routing said data and said associated processing information utilizing an object router, such that said data and said associated processing information may be utilized by a subsequent object router to continue routing said data further through said distributed computer network.

22. The system of claim 21 wherein said subsequent object router comprises a next-hop object router.

23. The system of claim 21 further comprising:

module for downloading other associated processing information utilizing a received object; and

module for constructing a new object.

24. The system of claim 23 wherein said object router can utilize said data or said associated processing information embedded in said object to download said other set of associated processing information.

25. The system of claim 24 wherein said object router can utilize said data or said associated processing information embedded in said object to download said other set of associated processing information to augment current associated processing information.

26. The system of claim 4 wherein said object router can utilize said data or said associated processing information embedded in said object to download said other set of associated processing information to replace said current associated processing information.

27. The system of claim 17 wherein said associated processing information comprises at least one software method.

28. The system of claim 27 wherein said at least one software method is present within said object.

29. The system of claim 27 wherein said at least one software method is associated with said object.

30. The system of claim 17 wherein said object router can route proprietary data.

31. The system of claim 17 wherein said object router can route standard data.

32. The system of claim 17 further comprising:

module for permitting said object router to construct said object by dynamically downloading said associated processing information corresponding to data received from an external data source;

module for constructing said object utilizing an end device by packaging said data and said associated processing information;

module for transmitting said object to said object router;

module for routing said data and said associated processing information utilizing an object router, such that said data and said associated processing information may be utilized by a subsequent object router to continue routing said data further through said distributed computer network, wherein said subsequent object router comprises a next-hop object router;

module for downloading other associated processing information utilizing a received object; and

module for thereafter constructing a new object.